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## MEMORANDUM

To: Kevin Wagner, Ph.D., UFS President  
From: Paul R. Peluso, Ph.D. UGC Chair  
Date: February 17, 2020  
RE: UGC Recommendation on Draft Space Policy

At the January 29, 2020, University Graduate Council meeting, a discussion of the Draft "Research Space Assignment Policy" dated September 2020 was held. This discussion was preceded by the members of the Graduate Council soliciting input from their constituent colleges to ensure that there was sufficient feedback from as many faculty as possible, representing a diverse group of researchers who utilize space for their research and scholarship.

The Council recognized the need for a clearly articulated policy that would provide clear guidance regarding the allocation and reallocation of research space. An overall consensus was that the current draft policy provided some outlines for how space would be accurately accounted for, and that there was an attempt to quantify research space that fell out of more traditional natural science laboratory space, but there was strong agreement that the draft policy, in its current form was still in need of further clarification and editing.

The Council agrees that the ultimate goal is a clearer policy that would spell out a process that must be followed, subject to the agreement of the Division of Research and the Division of Academic Affairs. This policy should minimize disruption to campus operations and research activities. Ideally, the final policy should fit Florida Atlantic University as it stands today in terms of research productivity, but also would allow for the anticipated growth in the future as FAU strives to become a Research 1 university. The Council's opinion, based on consultation with faculty is that while the current draft policy is more aspirational and forward-looking, it is not as readily applicable to the current level of research activity at Florida Atlantic University.

As a result, the University Graduate Council would like to recommend a small, ad hoc committee of faculty be tasked with editing the current draft policy that would clearly address the current and future needs for research space, as well as the process for allocating and re-allocating space. Specifically, the policy would more clearly outline the degree to which faculty and Deans have input as to what their space needs are and/or will be and allow the Deans to make commitments to their faculty regarding space allocation in consultation/negotiation with the Division of Research to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan of the University. This small committee would be appointed by the Provost, who will solicit suggested members that ideally have diverse research lab or space requirements. The goal for this committee to complete its work and have an updated draft policy back to the Senate so that it can be put into force by no later than December, 2020.